

420 Saylor Street
Schuylkill Haven, PA. 17972

Phone: 570-385-3941
Fax: 570-385-6842
E-Mail: office@havenfirstumc.org
www.havenfirstumc.org

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First United Methodist Church

“Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”

Sunday Services at 9:00 A.M.

During this season you can join us online at: www.havenfirstumc.org

Or like us on Facebook and join us there.

Our Vision: Welcoming, Empowering, Reaching Out
Ministers: Everyone of us:
Pastors and Staff:

- Dr. Christopher Fisher Senior Pastor
- JoAnn Daum Office Manager
- Marcy Hudock Sexton
- Adam Kraft Treasurer
- Ann Moyer Parish Nurse
- Cynthia McClelland Organist/Music Director
- Brian Reading Minister of Visitation
- Julie Saunders Choir Director
- Pamela Setlock Church Secretary

Pastoral Letter on the Quarantine

The Coronavirus Pandemic has changed life for everyone. In six weeks, we have gone from business as usual to a way of being that has probably not been seen in anyone's living memory. Six weeks ago, everyone was buying and selling, traveling around the world, enjoying large social gatherings, concerts, sports events, parties and group revelry, with all-time highs in employment and the stock market. We also had extreme cultural division in politics, ideology, values and religion, including the church, with the United Methodist denomination on the brink of splitting.



In a matter of weeks, all that has disappeared. Fear of a disease with unknown longevity and cure has led to social distancing, facemasks in public, shortages of basic staples, record unemployment, a gyrating stock market and many businesses going bankrupt, schools closed for the year, and families adjusting to life lived mostly at home. The elderly and infirm are feeling especially vulnerable. There are no big gatherings like concerts, parties, sports events, weddings or funerals. Worship takes place in the privacy of our own homes. There is still political division, but the focus is on how best to lead the country through the pandemic, with other issues receding in urgency. As of Thursday, April 30, the number of cases in the US tops 1 million, with the death toll over 61,000. (Source: *John Hopkins University Center for Systems Science & Engineering*, 11:30 AM, April 30, 2020).

In all this, everyone is being forced to live differently. Although this is evident in many dimensions of our lives, I want to focus on home life. The tech revolution has made virtual social connection possible, but life is now focused at home in a new way. Many families are experiencing new tensions and pressures as they are forced to be with each other 24x7. Little frictions may add up, and without the emotional and spiritual resources, distance and time to process them, many are finding themselves in dark and muddy waters. One measure of this is evident in the mental health profession: almost no one is skipping therapy sessions, even though they are in the unfamiliar telehealth video format. (“*Your Video Therapist will See You Now*,” by Andrea Petersen, April 26, 2020, *The Wall Street Journal*). People are experiencing unprecedented levels of fear, anxiety and conflict, and are desperate for help.

Let me propose some practical helps from your faith

during this time. Even the most mature Christians may experience anxiety and difficulty with the new situation, and not simply because of fear of death. Introverts may find the new situation to their liking, but loneliness can be a real problem for many. We may feel normal sadness at separation. We need our friends, our neighbors, our church family, our fellow-students and colleagues at work. We are fundamentally social beings, made for relationship. This pandemic has affected relationships on every level. It may expose our relational weaknesses, including weaknesses in our relationship with God, in our ability to be in relationship with others, poor interpersonal skills and strains from unresolved conflicts and the stresses of the situation.



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If the first problem is your situation, this is a great time to be alone with God and develop your relationship with him. Remember this promise: “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus, the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.” (Romans 8:1-2). In Christ, you may come freely to God and expect his grace. Study his word, seek to put it into practice. Get on your knees, be quiet before him, give God thanks and praise. Talk to him about your cares and worries, your failures and your needs. Make the choice to trust him with these things. “Cast your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7). Seek to grow in the knowledge and love of God. Ask him what new choices he wants you to make; listen for that still small voice directing you in the way. Know his peace.

If you are united with Christ, believers have a reservoir of grace in relationship with him, which he asks and expects us to share with others. Much of Jesus' teaching is about maintaining healthy, godly and harmonious relationships. Forgiving others is a huge part of that. “If you forgive other people when

they sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive you." (Matthew 6:14-15). "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32). If you hold on to resentment, evil judgments and grudges, unresolved conflict is going to build up and become a major problem in your home and relationships. Perhaps you need to be the one to humble yourself and ask for forgiveness. This also is in our Lord's teaching (Matthew 5:23).

You may need to talk through establishing healthy boundaries at home, so everyone knows what is needed in this new situation. How you talk about it can make all the difference between effective communication or another opportunity for resentment. "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." (Ephesians 4:29). If you are gracious and forgiving, including not holding grudges against God or yourself, resilience in the face of change can go a long way to helping you live in peace and thrive in this situation. Then you and your family can roll with the punches without them taking you down. They will truly be loved ones, and your home will be a holy church in miniature where Christ reigns.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY

I ask myself, how can godless people endure when they have no relationship with God? Many are now living in a heightened state of fear and anxiety because of this. Lack of spiritual resources is showing up in many hearts and homes where God is absent, and it is not a pretty picture. While they could mask that emptiness with buying, busyness and pursuit of pleasure, the quarantine has changed the equation. A recent survey by the Joshua Fund reveals that 44% of all Americans are asking why this pandemic is happening, and wondering whether this is either a wake-up call to return to God and the Bible, or a sign

of coming judgment, or both. The survey included all kinds of people: atheists and agnostics, not just Christians.¹ It seems to indicate an increase in spiritual hunger among Americans in a way not seen for years.

What can we as Christians do in response? We can share the gospel! Did you know that our church's online worship service has about three times as many people viewing it each week as we used to have in average live attendance? I am not trying to toot our horn here, but simply noting the increase may point to the uptick in spiritual interest and hunger. This may be a great time for you to begin sharing the love of Jesus Christ with your loved ones, neighbors and non-Christians friends. They may be open to eternal questions in a whole new way because of uncertainty.

As you grow in your relationship with God and your family, prayerfully seek to whom the Lord is sending you to share his love. It could be as simple as inviting a neighbor to sit down on the curb together (6 feet apart in masks, of course), and ask how they are doing. Probe their fears. Ask if they know God. Offer to pray for them. Share a bible, a Scripture CD such as the one produced by the Tomchiks and John Fatora (see the Mission Committee report in this newsletter), or another inspirational resource. Perhaps invite them to view our church's online worship. See where it goes. It is the Holy Spirit's job to prepare hearts for the Lord, not ours. Our part is to be willing to share Christ. You can count on the fact that he has been working before you get there, and the Holy Spirit will help you.

I leave you with Paul's closing exhortation in Philippians 4:4-9.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

- Yours In Christ, Dr. Chris Fisher

¹ Joel C. Rosenberg. "Coronavirus Pandemic Is a Wake Up Call: Exclusive Joshua Fund Poll," March 2020, <https://www.joshuafund.com/learn/news-article/coronavirus-pandemic-is-a-wake-up-call-exclusive-joshua-fund-poll>. © The Joshua Fund, 2020.

Health & Welfare Committee

April 2020

As we all stay home and safe during this Covid-19 event we wonder if life will ever be the same. For the next year, it seems, we will be living with masks and social distancing until a vaccine is developed.

For some of us, staying at home is no change from our normal lifestyle, for others not so much. Currently, the likelihood of the Caregiver Conference taking place as scheduled is in question. The venue and date have been set but all other work of recruiting vendors and speakers is on hold.

The proposed support group is still in the process of setting up a way to meet online. The worship committee and that whole team has been highly effective in producing the live Sunday worship. It is our intention to utilize this same style video to meet with caregivers. The details and computer requirements are being considered. We will keep you updated when this group is ready to enroll members.

The purpose of this committee is to address the health and welfare of our church members and the surrounding community. In that role, we are offering face masks free of charge to those in need. Please contact a committee member listed below to order masks.



To order masks please choose	Male Adult	Male Teen	Female Adult	Female Teen	Child Male	Child Female
Quantity						

When you order, we will need your name, address where to mail masks, telephone/cell phone, and the count or how many of each size you need. If mailing masks is not desired, other arrangements may be made to get the masks to you.

Contact Committee members:			
Dot Murphy	570-739-2783	Linda Olsen	570-385-4592
Ann Moyer	570-385-0686	Karen Shiffert	570-739-0908

Karen

As most of you know I was in "moving my house" mode for most of 2019. I am still unpacking boxes that were intended to be moved with me.

While unpacking my cookbooks, I came across one I had not seen in a while - *The Coffee Book* written by Christie Katona and Thomas Katona. (I have so many, books get lost amongst each other) This was published in 1992, but the tips and information are still interesting and enjoyable.

I thought I would share a few of the items of trivia.

We each have our favorite ways of preparing our own cup of coffee and across the world people have their own favorite flavor combinations.

- Italians like their espresso with lemon.
- Austrians like their coffee with whipped cream.
- Belgians like their coffee with chocolate.
- Swiss and Germans, like to combine equal parts of coffee and hot chocolate
- The French like their traditional café au lait, or equal quantities of coffee and hot milk.
- The Mexicans like cinnamon with their coffee.
- In Africa and the Middle East, it is customary to add spices such as cardamom to coffee.
- Moroccans add peppercorns and Ethiopians add a pinch of salt to their brew.

Though you may not travel the world, it is wonderful to have all these ideas to make your cup of coffee to your own liking. I, most times, just like it BLACK, but will experiment with spices. Remember the television series *Castle*? His coffee wanted nutmeg. I found a recipe for Mexican coffee that uses a piece of orange rind, brown sugar and cinnamon. With or without milk. Yum....

When we can get together again, we can have a coffee tasting Sunday, where you bring the ingredients for your favorite cup of flavor and we can swap recipes over a cup of this or that. More thought must go into this idea, but it is fun to think about meeting again over our cups of coffee.

Stay safe and enjoy your time at home if that is your situation. See you soon.



Karen

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**Worship & Preaching Schedule
May – June 2020**

Sunday Worship: Streamed Sundays at 9:00 AM

*Stay tuned for Announcements on when
Public Worship in the Sanctuary may resume.*

**Theme: "Prophecy and the End times:
How then Shall we Live?"**

Dr. Fisher preaching unless otherwise noted

May 3: 3rd Sunday after Easter & Holy Communion
"Living in Holy Communion in the Pandemic"
May 9 – Community Lunch is cancelled
May 10: 4th Sunday after Easter & Mother's Day
"Revelation 12: Loving our Spiritual Mother"

May 17: 5th Sunday after Easter
"Signs the Lord's Return is Near"

May 24: 6th Sunday after Easter & Memorial Day
Guest Speaker: Mr. Brian Reading
NO FELLOWSHIP LUNCH TODAY

May 31: Pentecost Sunday
"Beware False Prophets & False Teachers"
YOUTH YEAR-END FAMILY PICNIC-???

June 7: 1st Sunday after Pentecost/ Holy Communion
"The Love of Most will Grow Cold"

June 14: 2nd Sunday after Pentecost
"The Rebirth of Modern Israel and
regathering of the Jews from the Four Corners
of the Earth"

June 21: 3rd Sunday after Pentecost
Guest Speaker: Mr. Gary Daum, Lay Leader

June 28: 4th Sunday after Pentecost
"This Gospel must first be preached to all
Nations, and then the End will Come."
FELLOWSHIP LUNCH - ???

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May – June Communion Offering

May 3: Youth Ministry Summer Family Trip

June 7: Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Note: The special offering we collected on March 1 to help install a chair lift in the Shamokin United Methodist Church parsonage is no longer needed. Sadly, since then the pastor's husband who needed the chair lift has died. We would like to redirect the offering to the discretionary use of the Shamokin Church. Please let us know if you gave to this cause and would like your gift designated differently.

WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICE

RECORDINGS ARE AVAILABLE ☉

Each Sunday, First UMC streams its worship services online at havenfirstumc.org/live. These services are also viewable through Facebook and Vimeo. Simply clicking on the church's website link will take you to various viewing options.

Because some members of the congregation do not have access to the internet, we are offering to record the services on CD or DVD for those who request them, and have them mailed or hand delivered by a cadre of volunteers, thanks to the Stephen Ministry.

Please call the church office or mail in this form if you need a CD or DVD of the worship service in order to participate in worship. Thank you.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Best way to contact you: _____

Preferred Format: ☉

CD: _____ DVD: _____

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Youth Ministry Update

For the latest virtual meetings, Summer hopes and fund-raiser plans: see our Youth President's Report.

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April 11 Charge Conference Report

On April 11, the Administrative Board convened as a special Charge Conference with the permission of the District Superintendent and Bishop.

Background: The only issue before the charge conference was the decision whether to participate in the Payroll Protection Loan Program being offered as part of the recent Federal Cares Act. In the wake of a temporary downturn in giving in the second half of March, the Finance Committee had recommended to Administrative Board to participate in the program. Since taking such a loan requires charge conference action, the Ad Board referred the matter to the Charge Conference with a recommendation to participate.

The charge conference was held virtually through

the church's Webex site, with Pastor Fisher presiding as elder by authority of the bishop and superintendent. 16 members of the Charge Conference attended, along with 10 members of the congregation. The charge conference voted not to participate in the PPL Program at this time, with the following action:

Motions from both the Finance Committee and the Administrative Board were presented on the agenda. Following a time of questions and discussion, Don Bergen moved, Matheau Bridges amended and Lenny M. Yeniliatus seconded, to move forward the following motion:

• "In recognition of the requirement that the Church demonstrate that "the loan is necessary due to current economic conditions caused by COVID-19 to support the church's ongoing operations" the Charge Conference cannot in good faith certify that First United Methodist Church of Schuylkill Haven meets that requirement and therefore defers application for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) until such time as those requirements may be changed or can be met. The Charge Conference empowers the Finance Committee to review changes to eligibility requirements and economic need. Furthermore, the Charge Conference empowers the Administrative board to approve application if the requirements are met at a future date. An administrative board meeting to approve application and the agenda will be announced in advance and made open to the congregation to attend."

Liz Wallace called the question. The board approved and a roll call vote resulted in 13 yes, 2 no and 1 abstention. Motion carried.

-Minutes by Mrs. Darlene Beers, Secretary.

-This condensed report of proceedings respectfully given by Rev. Dr. Christopher Fisher, presiding elder.



CHURCH PRAYER MINISTRY UPDATES

Good News About a New Prayer Ministry:

We have implemented a new prayer ministry to cover everyone in the whole church, by name, in daily prayer. About 50 people have signed up to be the prayer warriors for our congregation, each praying for 10 people whose names are printed on a prayer card. One of them may call you to ask how you are doing and any special prayer requests. Thank God for these faithful intercessors, who are lifting the congregation to the Lord daily, including members, constituents and regular attendees.

Prayer Focus for May and June 2020

1) Pray for more of the God's presence and grace in the Body of Christ.

2) Pray for the spiritual growth, health, and unity of the body of Christ during this time of Coronavirus Quarantine. Pray that we will use the time wisely, continuing to sow seeds of the gospel now so that we can reap the harvest later.

3) Pray for spiritual awakening among the lost, the prodigal children, and those who do not know the Lord in our families, our county and our nation. Pray for the Lord's mercy, and that the powers and principalities that hold them captive will be bound and cast out.

4) Pray for our weekly online worship services, that they will be filled with the Spirit and be a blessing to everyone the Lord draws to view them.

5) Pray for the various ministries of the church which continue to meet in creative new ways during the quarantine, including the Vineyard, the Youth Middle School and High School Ministries, and all the small groups and ministry teams meeting virtually.

Weekly prayer team ministry continues.

Please sign up in pairs to pray for one hour a day during your week, for the Kingdom of God to come more fully in our church and our community and beyond. You can pray in your own homes. Consider sharing a phone call or video-chat to pray together if you live in different homes.

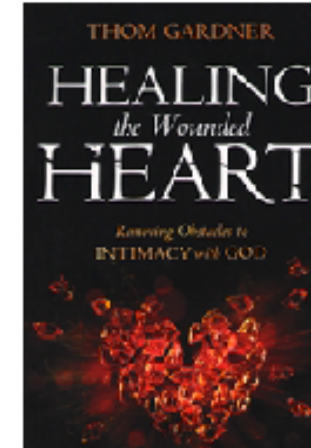
Do you have a testimony to share with the congregation?

Has the Lord done something special in your life recently? You can record your testimony at home and we can incorporate that into the online worship service. Your testimony might bless someone who views the worship online. Please contact the office at office@havenfirstumc.org or Pastor Fisher at pastor@havenfirstumc.org if you are willing to contribute.



UM Denominational News Update:

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church scheduled for May 2020 has been postponed. The Council of Bishops is proposing a reschedule date in 2021, possibly in August – September. The Eastern PA Conference in June has also been rescheduled in shortened form to October 13-14, 2020 at the Oaks Convention Center. Our church will host the North District Conference on Sunday, October 4 at 3:00 pm. We will announce other news as it becomes available.



The small group, Women Moving Forward, which meets every Tuesday at 1 PM, would like to invite you to join our group as we begin a study of the book Healing the Wounded Heart, by Thom Gardner. It is a very easy read, biblically based, and has helped many people deal with past hurts and issues. Please contact Nancy Kraft at 570-385-4431, if you are interested.

Reaching out

Things have been rather uncertain these last several weeks. Please remember those in our midst that are Shut –in or homebound with a card or just a quick note to let them know that they are not forgotten. Here is the list that is normally published in the weekly bulletin:

Schuylkill Haven:

Lucille Romberger
406 May Drive

Carol Shappell
206 Jefferson St.

Pottsville:

Rev. Carl Geary
Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village Rm. 257
189 E. Tressler Blvd., Lewisburg, PA. 17837

Marilyn Koch
Schuylkill Manor, room 119

Virginia McClelland
400 Washington Street

Helen & Stuart Sattizahn
York Terrace, Room 138

Catherin Daubenspeck
Schuylkill Center

Tremont:

John & Anna Mease
113 Washington Street

Orwigsburg:

Dr. Herb Rubright
33 Grist Mill Road

Carol Wagner
Seton Manor, Room 507

Barbara Woll
Seton Manor, Room 103

Auburn

Ruth Short
1127 Wynonah Drive

PRISON MINISTRY

Terry Short NY 7743
7743 SCI Camp Hill
P.O. Bos 33028
St Petersburg, FL 33733

Bridget Steffie PC8700
SCI-Muncy
P.O. Box 33028
St. Petersburg, FL.33733

Shalom from Finance

liquidate everything in 30 days, having credit cards maxed out due to paying for house appliances and having the IRS stop one of our salaries. NOT A GOOD TIME. Through all of that I tried to keep my tithe to God. It wasn't easy and could never be rationalized to some of our friends. But we ended up being blessed in the long run.

As the thirty days for us to move approached, God led us to a smaller house that wasn't even on the market at the time. (Blessing 1) It was handicapped accessible which didn't matter to us at the time. (Blessing 2) It was owned by a friend of mine from HS who readily rented it to us and let us move in immediately. (Blessing 3) We were able to get our car back and learned how to live from one paycheck to the next and be able to pay down the credit cards. (Still tithing) I became a better cook since going out to eat was off the books. (Blessing 4 for Bob!) Two years later my dad became wheelchair bound and was able to come to live with us for a few months before he died. (Blessing 4) He wouldn't have been able to do that at our other house. The time made me appreciate having a less material existence. "Stuff" wasn't as important as it had been. God was. And what we did have, we could share with others and still do. ANYTHING is possible through GOD. So, I challenge you to try tithing and watch how you will be blessed. If you can't do the ten percent right off, try a lower percent and work your way up.

Jean Twardzik
Finance Chair

State of the Church Finances at this time

For the first quarter of the year, Jan. – March, our expenses were \$6,000+ beyond our budget. Our tithes/offerings weekly in April continue to run \$2,000+ behind our budget. The good news is, we are still in the black in our checking and other accounts. God has been very faithful to us and has blessed us. Thanks be to God!



Greetings from the Discipleship Council during this time of stay-at-home.

The focus of the Council for most of the past year has been to encourage and guide the small group process in the church.

However, until the need to "stay-at-home" is lifted, the small groups cannot meet in person. So, we encourage the small groups to continue meeting, either virtually or by phone. And, if you are not in a small group, we also encourage you to consider joining one. Just call the church office to find out more.

We also encourage you all to reach out and have a friendly chat with other church members, friends, and

neighbors – for many of us just need to hear from others. Whether it is in small group or just by a phone call, touching base with each other shows that we care and that we are truly a church family.

During these challenging times, it is vital that we take the time to see how others are weathering their stay-at-home time, to ask about their health, safety, support systems and their needs... to just listen to them, encourage them, comfort them... to understand them. And most importantly, to have them trust in the Lord.

For as disciples of Christ, we are all called to be like shepherds who effectively care for and nurture the spiritual welfare of His sheep. Our goal is to help those we disciple know about Him, but also to trust and always rely on Him.

Blessings, grace, and peace to you from God our Father.

Pandemic Re-opening Best Practices for Churches
Eastern PA Conference United Methodist Church
Written in tandem with Gov. Wolf's Re-opening Phases (Red; Yellow; Green)
Adapted with permission from the Wisconsin Council of Churches

RED PHASE:

Per Gov. Wolf:

- Stay at Home Orders in Place
- Large Gatherings Prohibited

Governor Wolf's re-opening directives (as of 4/25):

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/process-to-reopen-pennsylvania/>
To this end, we recommend:

- Churches should continue holding online worship services only.
- If recording in the sanctuary, less than 10 in attendance. Maintain at least 6 ft of space between people - greater distance between those who are singing. Masks worn by all participating in planning and only removed when leading worship time.
- Life rituals (weddings, funerals) should be kept to less than 10 in attendance. If you need to help set a limit, consider using immediate family. We advise only publicizing the date and location to those who are on the approved list to prevent hurt feelings or awkward situations.
- Bible studies and small groups continue to meet online. Leadership teams meet online as much as possible.
- Keep office functions as limited as possible to ensure essential operations. Those in the office should be wearing masks; if you have more than one person in the office, make sure that surfaces, including the phone, are regularly sanitized.

YELLOW PHASE:

Per Governor Wolf:

- Stay at Home Restrictions Lifted in Favor of Aggressive Mitigation
- Large Gatherings of More than 25 Prohibited
- Child care open with workers and building safety orders
- Telework must continue where feasible

To this end, we recommend:

- Worship, depending on size:
 - Churches over 25 average worship attendance: We recommend that you continue holding online worship, recording from home or the sanctuary with participation from small groups of people. If you choose to have multiple services, have a plan for managing the number of people per service. Have a plan to clean surfaces between services. Consider exploring what small group worship could look like as an alternative.
 - Smaller churches (under 25 AWA) might consider holding in person worship but make sure their space is large enough to

allow for social distancing. Have a contingency plan for overflows beyond the approved number of people.

• General recommendations for worship:

- Whichever alternative you choose, we recommend continuing to share worship online as there will be many who are at high risk and cannot join you, or may not feel safe to return even if precautions are in place.
 - Wear cloth face masks while at church, as is recommended in public spaces. Please have masks available for people upon entry if they do not arrive with one. Order or make masks now. While N95 masks are reserved for health professionals, surgical and/or cloth masks should be available. Plan now to order essential supplies like masks, hand sanitizer, disinfectant, etc.
 - Have a designated leadership team prepared with a strategy to implement these recommendations. Do not let the burden of this implementation fall on the Pastor.
 - Offering Communion safely will continue to be a challenge, as touching a face mask (to remove or shift it) contaminates it. Proximity to the communicant is a risk to the clergy/worship team and those receiving. Give serious consideration to options within your tradition that minimize contact. This may mean you need to further postpone offering Communion to the faithful.
 - Singing is among the riskier behaviors when it comes to spreading droplets/aerosols which can carry the virus a significant distance and remain suspended in the air. A cloth mask is unlikely to be enough to protect you or your neighbor. We recommend against singing in the sanctuary when the congregation is gathered.
 - Use no-touch alternatives for passing the peace, collecting offering, and liturgical resources. Consider removing Hymnals and Bibles if you will have multiple services. We recommend screens over bulletins. If you must use bulletins, do not reuse.
 - Distancing: Have people spread out in sanctuary space with one family unit per pew; keep empty pews between families. Mark off chairs for individuals/families with space between (use an X to cover chairs or pews that should not be used). Explore meeting in a fellowship hall or outdoors if your space is small.
 - We recommend against offering a fellowship/coffee hour. Continue encouraging people to leave the building rather than mingling. Separate exits or staggered worship times may be needed if simultaneous worship is in process.
 - Life rituals (weddings, funerals, confirmations) could take place in a more traditional way, with careful attention to guest lists so as to keep under the 25 person limit, and physical distancing plans.
- Offer opportunities for Bible studies and small groups to meet in person or online. We recommend maintaining some online options for people who do not feel comfortable. Don't yet have small groups? This is an opportunity to renew relationships and perhaps start some small groups within your congregation. We know some persons have returned to church through these online means. Now is a good time to reach out and invite these people to become active in their faith formation. As conditions shift, these small groups can provide spiritual and emotional support to one another, and offer a setting for mission.

Shalom from Finance

current vice president of the FUMC Trustees; was a member for 10 years and former Chairman of the Cressona Borough Authority; current Trustee of the Cressona Band; former long-time member of a local police pension board; former local treasurer of an international fraternal service organization for 9 years as well as a current auditor, and former President of the Administrative Board at my former church. I am a firm believer in tithing including giving of my time and talent to help the Church

So, why the interest in Tithing? It is mentioned many times in the Old Testament, specifically when talking about giving a tenth of the crops, spices, and livestock. A tenth was considered the king's portion. And who is our king? Jacob in Genesis 28:20, vows to God saying if He will be with him and watch over him, then of all Jacob has, he will give a tenth back to God. The tithe is mentioned in Lev. 27 and Deut. 14:22-29 as belonging to the Lord. Mal. 3 speaks about returning to God and not robbing Him by holding back our tithe and offering. You are probably thinking, "That was Old Testament times and not applicable now!" I beg to differ. In Matt. 5, Christ said that He did not come to abolish the Law or Prophets, but to fulfill them (paraphrased). Though the New Testament doesn't use the word tithe often it does speak about the Pharisees giving a tenth of what they receive. Money is spoken about quite a bit. Look up I Tim. 6:6-10. It is about money being the root of all kinds of evil and is also about finding contentment. I Tim. 6:17 speaks to the rich being generous and willing to share. We need to see our giving as a privilege and an expression of thanksgiving for blessings we have received. We own nothing here; we are stewards for God. "Thank you, God for this privilege."

So after saying all of that, here is my testimony about my tithing.

"About twenty years ago my husband and I went through a rough time. The kind of rough time that involved: having his company file for bankruptcy due to theft while we were building a new house, losing said house, having a (paid for) car repossessed on Mother's Day evening, having to move out of the house and

Shalom from Finance

not always equal 4, at least in God's world of unlimited resource and boundless blessing. I still cannot account for how in the world we balanced our budget – the raw numbers simply did NOT add up. I learned from that experience that there are indeed greater possibilities when we trust in the Lord's great power, his infinite LOVE for us that goes beyond all reason and human thinking. I encourage you, just as our Pastor did me, to consider greater possibilities.

Dot Murphy- I worked in a local bank for nearly 24 years first as a teller and worked my way up to doing investing in non-bank products such as annuities and insurances. Prior to that I was treasurer for the Cressona PTA, worked in the Earned Income Tax Office for most of Schuylkill County and in the Credit office of a local department store. I have helped with counting the weekly collection here at First Church for the last 2 ½ years. I do tithe on a regular basis here at First UMC since I became a member in 2012.

Nancy Lado- I have no professional experiences with finance. I was always chosen to be treasurer of any group as a youth. (Girl Scout Troop, Baptist Student Union etc.) This continued as I grew older, and after marriage I managed our office and home finances. I have served as treasurer of several nonprofits. I do tithe and feel richly blessed.

Wanda Langley- Financial background consists of a BS Accounting degree from University of Maryland. I have had extensive business finance experience as a VP for a division of a fortune 500 company for three years. I was taught tithing from the time I was a little girl. I remember just a few hours before my Dad passed away, he said, "Lucille, is our tithe paid up to date". Mother managed the money in our home, but Dad always wanted to know that the tithe was a priority.

Randall Helwig- I have over 35 years of experience in finance and healthcare management. Upon graduating college I entered the management training program for Hershey Bank (now PNC), then I worked as an accountant for the Reading Housing Authority. For 7.5 years I served as Director of Financial Services for a nursing and retirement village. During most of the past 21 years I have worked for a management company serving the private medical community in Schuylkill and neighboring counties for various specialties including: ophthalmology, dentistry, respiratory, urology, orthopedic, and internal medicine. I am the former Administrative Board Chair, SPRC Chair, President and

- We recommend against offering Vacation Bible School in person. While the risk to children is somewhat lower, there is an ongoing risk of them carrying the virus back home and sharing it with other family members. Whether or not they are symptomatic, someone who is infected can spread the virus. Consider whether you might offer an online or no-touch drop-off activity.

- We anticipate mission trips to be unwise for some time. This is an ideal time for mission in the local area. Are there food pantries or other community services in need of volunteers? Practice the art of mission in place. Keep your groups small so as not to overwhelm the ministries you serve. You are there to assist, not to occupy or divert their resources.

- Regular office functions could resume more or less safely while maintaining social distancing and wearing masks. Continue to attend to cleaning and sanitizing the office. Pay particular attention to high-touch surfaces and cleaning hands after dealing with the offering.

- Church councils and leadership teams of less than 10 might consider meeting in person while wearing masks and maintaining social distancing, or continue meeting online.

- Smaller churches (under 25 members) could consider holding in-person membership meetings if official business is required.
- Allow building users/renters to resume operations, with a plan to address cleaning needs and agreement to observe gathering and distancing protocols.

- General Building:

- o Post signs indicating symptoms and urging people to stay home/seek medical attention if they have symptoms.

- o Maintain a good stock of tissue, soap, hand sanitizer and disposable paper towels for drying hands.

- o Clean the building regularly and between user groups, paying extra attention to high touch surfaces.

- o If you become aware of someone in the church or a building user infected with COVID-19, put your communication plan into action, and cooperate fully with contact tracers.

- Hospitals and care facilities are recommended to continue limiting visitors. This has implications for church program, pastoral care and business.

- Wear cloth face masks while at church and in community ministry, as is recommended in public spaces

GREEN PHASE

Per Gov. Wolf:

- Aggressive Mitigation Orders Lifted

- All Individuals Must Follow CDC and PA Department of Health Guidelines

To this end, we recommend:

- Worship:

- o We recommend that churches of all sizes offer in-person and remote/online options. Follow CDC guidelines.

- o Physical distancing may not be required in the Green Phase, although we recommend that you avoid crowding in the sanctuary to the extent possible. Consider continuing to offer multiple services, as people may want to spread out.

- o Watch for public health recommendations on Communion as we get to this phase and consult your District Office as guidelines are updated.

- o Watch for public health recommendations on group singing as we arrive at this phase.

- o Continue to use no-touch alternatives for passing the peace, collecting offering, and liturgical resources. Consider removing Hymnals and Bibles if you will have multiple services. Use bulletins (do not reuse) or screens as alternatives.

- o We will revise our recommendations as we learn more, but at this time, we recommend against offering a fellowship/coffee hour. Continue encouraging people to leave the building rather than mingling.

- o Bible studies and small groups can meet in person. We recommend maintaining some online options for high risk individuals and those who do not feel comfortable being in public.

- o Office functions could resume as normal, with attention to cleaning.

- o Groups, teams, and committees can meet in person.

As we approach the Yellow and Green Phase, please note the following:

"It is possible that conditions will not improve, but infections will increase again. In that case, physical distancing recommendations would need to be tightened temporarily in order to get back on track. Progress will not necessarily be linear. You can help by encouraging careful hygiene, following of the physical/social distancing recommendations, encouraging people to stay at home if they have any symptoms of illness, and to cooperate with contact tracers if they are diagnosed."

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Many thanks to the Wisconsin Council of Churches for their document on re-opening and their permission for use and adaptation of their original document: <https://www.wichurches.org/2020/04/23/returning-to-church/>.

For the complete text of this message, go to the following web link:

<https://www.epaumc.org/wp-content/uploads/Pandemic-Re-opening-Best-Practices-for-Churches.pdf>

May 2020 Youth Ministry Update
By Raquel Fisher, President of the Youth Council

The Senior High Youth Group has been meeting regularly through the communications app Cisco Webex. **We would like to thank all** those who have been supporting us through our **Easter Candy Fundraiser**, including many folks who gave donations above and beyond the candy. There are still a few boxes left for anyone interested, mainly milk chocolate.

Due to the pandemic, the youth's 'Servant for a Day' fundraiser event has been postponed. We will announce rescheduling when the quarantine lifting makes it possible.

Please note the Senior High Youth are going to be trying out a **New Meeting Time** this month. We will continue to meet on **Sundays using Webex, but the new time is at 1:00 PM**. This is an experiment to see if we can engage more youth who may feel pressured Sunday night to have their homework done for Monday morning. **Sunday, May 3 we are having a bake-off!** Youth, prepare your kitchens for 1:00 cooking wonders.

On the horizon: This summer, we are planning various family-friendly Youth Events, including a **May 31 end-of-the school year picnic**, a **June 14 Rail2Trail bike/hike in Hamburg**, and a **Family-camping trip to Ocean City, NJ from July 31 to August 4** at the Ocean City Tabernacle. All these will be dependent on the state of the quarantine, so stay tuned.

Finally, the Youth Council has asked the SPRC to find new youth ministry staff to lead the youth in the future. Please lift this in fervent prayer as we ask God to send these new workers.

Thank you congregation for supporting the youth group. God bless you all!

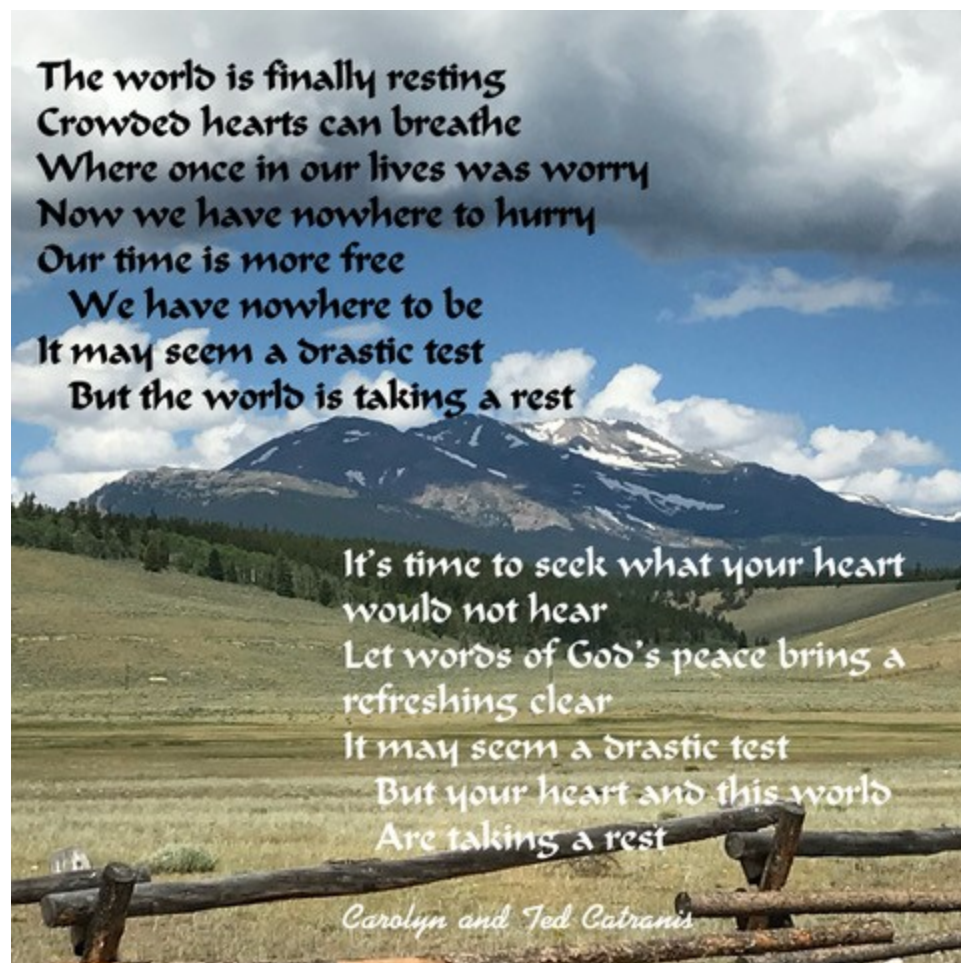
Sincerely, Raquel Fisher

Shalom from Finance

Adam Kraft- My experience with finances is that I am the current Treasurer at First United Methodist Church of Schuylkill Haven, starting this position on January 1, 2018. I am very grateful in my current position as Treasurer and eagerly serving God and our congregation in this way. I am a 2013 graduate from Penn State with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and a minor in Management. I've also worked at H & R Block of Pine Grove, PA from January, 2017 - April, 2018. Personally, I believe it is important to keep an ongoing monthly budget for tracking my finances. I became consistent and cheerful with my tithing for over 4 years now and have been blessed by it.

Rev. Chris Fisher - My professional experience with Finance involves pastoral presence on the finance committees of several other churches, plus two years of service as the treasurer of the Schuylkill Haven and Vicinity Council of Churches. I tithe and have done so since my early twenties, when I became convinced Jesus called his disciples to tithe, just as Abraham and Jacob tithed. God has always provided and is always faithful to his promises.

Gary Daum- My training in the area of finance includes courses in Microeconomics from PSU and in Financial Management from Univ. of Missouri, Rolla. My professional experience includes managing engineering department finances at Western Electric and ATT Microelectronics, as well as engineering development project expenses. As far as tithing is concerned, I must say this was not my practice until coming to First Church and encouragement from Pastor Fisher to consider great possibilities. The oft quoted scripture found in Malachi 3:8-11, "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse – your whole nation – because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. 'Test me in this', says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it". It is the only place in scripture (as far as I'm aware) where the Lord actually asks us to test Him. And indeed I did. He asked me to test him at the worst possible time in my financial life – a time of multiple layoffs from employment, a time when I lost most of my pension to the Enron financial mess, and a time where college costs came crashing down on our family like a plague. So I started tithing. At first, after a month or two, I thought I had gone crazy – nothing seemed to change. But I continued testing God and after a year or two, I learned that indeed 2 + 2 does



Shalom from Finance



I'd like to begin this article by introducing your Finance Committee. It is my belief that we have all been chosen for a time such as this. I sent the committee members two questions to answer as an introduction: First, what is your experience with finances, and second, do you tithe? Here are the replies.

Jean Twardzik- My experience with working with finances came from being on UMW District and Conference Leadership Teams and having to work within a budget. I needed an eye for details when proofreading the hotel event planner log sheets for Mission u for two years. I've been in leadership positions at the Church in being Chair of the Evangelism Committee, UMW unit, and Chair of Ad. Board. My Spiritual Gifts are leadership, helps, and administration. I do tithe. I have for about 20+ years after hearing several talks about the blessings received when tithing and then experiencing them firsthand.

Bert Evans- In my experience, I led as the CEO one of the largest Motor Carriers in the Country which now has some 7,000 trucks and 450 locations throughout the Company. I served as Chairman of the Board of several major area Banks and was a Director on a New York Stock Exchange Company. At the Church I have held many positions including Chairperson of the Administrative Board, the Finance Committee and what used to be called the Staff, Pastor Parish Relations Committee. I have been on the Finance Committee for the last 15 years and have seen the Church go through many ups and downs, so it takes a lot to shake me. I've run Finance Drives for the Church and believe it's in the Church's best interest to have an annual Drive to meet our Budget. Since Josette and I are now Florida residents and also members of a church in Florida, which is one of the requirements to prove you are a resident of Florida, I'm not sure we tithe at First Church, although I'm sure we do if you combine our gifts to both churches. We will always be a strong supporter of First Church.



1. **Read the Bible.** This is probably cliché, but reading the Bible together is a good start. The ICB version is nice because it's in plain English, in simplified terms kids can easily understand, and it leaves out some of the wordiness that's not essential to understanding the high points of the story.
2. **Talk about the Bible.** Reading the Bible isn't just about reading stories to children. If it were that, it would be easy. Children may ask what things mean (like "physical relations" – that was a conversation!). Once in a while, I'll pause and say, "I wonder why that is in the Bible." The thing is that kids are people too, and they have their own ideas about the Bible, and their ideas are just as real and honest and valid as are our own. Talking to them about those ideas helps them to internalize the Bible and make it their own.
3. **Play worship music in the background of your home.** When we're all at home, I like to ask Alexa to turn on the praise & worship station or the Christian music station (both free without an Amazon Music subscription). Wouldn't it be great if the songs stuck in your child's head were about Jesus?
4. **Pray for them.** Prayer changes situations, and it changes people. If you aren't praying for your children every day, now is the time to start.
5. **Pray with them.** How will your children learn to pray if you don't give them a good example? It's uncomfortable for me to pray out loud, even with my kids, but I do it anyway.
6. **Model how to handle hard situations.** I wanted my daughter to forgive the person who stole \$6, but how would I react if someone I knew stole \$60 from me? Or \$600? Would I forgive that person with grace and mercy or would I seethe about it? How about when you're angry at your kids or your spouse? Do you speak kindly and gently or yell out of fury?
7. **Be careful about what you expose them to.** I think immorality is easy to identify, and most of us would die of embarrassment if our children saw a sex scene, but disrespect is much more prevalent and subversive. How do the kids on their tv shows talk to each other? How do they talk to their parents? About their parents? Are the parents ridiculous and stupid? Do the girls act as if the only important things are their hair and their clothes? If you allow them to consume media with images you can't embrace, you are sending them very mixed messages about what you and your family find important.
8. **Respect authority.** Have you ever made an off-hand, snarky comment about a politician or a law? Do you drive over the speed limit or occasionally squeak through a red light? Do you criticize your pastor after the Sunday service is over? These are all showing your kids that you don't respect authority. How can I expect them to drive safely and under the speed limit when they grow up if I drive 10 miles over it every time I get on the highway?

Methodist Women’s Ministry NEWS

completing home jobs we always put off, another day of good health or extra bonding time with our pets. If you feel so lead, start an offering jar during these days. It can be brought to church for our work or the church’s Mission work- you decide. We need to thank God for His blessings.

SAVING a DATE????



Date unsure as of now- We will be featuring Andrea McHenry of FREE (Freedom and Recovery for Everyone Enslaved) from Reading, PA to speak on Human Trafficking. FREE is a nonprofit organization in Berks County that raises awareness of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. She has witnessed people being sold right off the streets in Reading. The program will be at 6 pm in either the café or the sanctuary depending on the crowd. She was featured in the Reading Times newspaper in an article Jan. 23rd titled “FEDs indict Gang Members”. It is located on our bulletin board downstairs whenever we get back into the church.

Stay Safe.
Jean

- 9. **Love others.** What do you do when you see a homeless person on the street with a sign asking for help? What about your speech? Do you speak lovingly about others, especially when you disagree with them? Have your kids ever heard you make a statement about “those Democrats” or “those Republicans” or “those gay people”? That’s not loving, my friend, and your kids know it.
- 10. **Let them see you giving cheerfully.** I suppose this goes along with the last one, but do you give? Whether you’re tithing at church or giving time or money to a local, national, or international charity, your kids should see you caring for others in a real, tangible way, and doing it with a cheerful attitude. Allow your kids to put the envelope into the collection plate. Ask them to choose gifts from the World Vision or Compassion catalog. Get them involved in packing an Operation Christmas Child box. Get them involved in your giving so that they can see how adults really help others all the time.
- 11. **Speak kindly to them.** This is the one that really trips up most parents. Can you say that you treat your kids as well as you would treat a stranger? Are you worried about offending them? Do you yell at them? Speaking gently and kindly to your kids is every bit as important as speaking gently and kindly to your boss or a police officer or stranger. Even when you’re angry. Even when they’re wrong. Even when you’re tired or hungry or sad or just plain old fed up. Kindness counts.
- 12. **Speak kindly about others.** One time, a couple of years ago, my family was at a banquet. A woman whose very personality rubs me the wrong way was speaking. “Do you know her?” Grace asked. “Yeah, I know her,” I flatly answered. She immediately picked up on my tone. “What’s wrong with her? Why don’t you like her?” I forget exactly, but I think I told her something

about her not having done anything to me, but I just didn’t care for the way she talked to people. Now, every time we go to an event with that organization, she asks me if that woman I don’t like is going to be there. It’s mortifying and entirely of my own doing, and it set the tone for her that it’s okay to dislike people for no reason.

- 13. **Smile more.** There is nothing in the Bible to suggest that Jesus was a handsome man. In fact it is written in Isaiah 53:2 that there would be nothing beautiful or attractive about the Messiah. However, I believe that He had a radiant smile. I believe that His smile was given freely and that it felt like a gift to whomever saw it. Your smile does the same thing for your children. When you smile at them, a genuine smile that crinkles your eyes, they will see light in your face, and they will feel special and honored.
- 14. **Give them your undivided attention.** When you are with your family, are you really with your family, or are you focused on your phone or work obligations or social media or the latest novel? Be present, and put your phone down. Don’t let work distractions get in the way of family meals. What I am saying is that when you choose to be there, be all there and put the distractions aside.
- 15. **Listen to them.** I have seen this quote many times, and it always gives me a gut check:

“Listen earnestly to anything your children want to tell you, no matter what. If you don’t listen eagerly to the little stuff when they’re little, they won’t tell you the big stuff when they are big, because to them, all of it has always been big stuff.”

– Catherine M. Wallace

Methodist Women's Ministry NEWS

Thank you to all who donated to our undie, sock drive for the Schuylkill Prison. Items were delivered in mid-March.

Due to the quarantine at this time our activities have been put on hold.

We are hoping to do a collection for Jewel Women's Center, Sch. Haven. On March 10th we had the honor of touring the facility. It was quite impressive. Below are pictures from that day.



The facilities are set up in a way that the woman's privacy is of the utmost importance. A pregnant woman can see a sonogram of her baby in the exam room on the day of her visit. We viewed a sample. It was a tear-jerking experience. We were so impressed that we will be doing a collection of them

whenever we get back to normal. We will be collecting diapers. Look for the signs and tubs.

As we sit or work at home, I think of the Thank Offering jars of the UMW days. Rose Jacoby would put money in her jar as a Thanksgiving to God for a safely completed car trip, good doctor's appt., or just a good day. I used mine to thank God for an uneventful plane trip to a training or a good doctor's visit for my mom. I think we need to reinstitute that tradition currently. A lot of focus is on the bad that is going on. We need to change that and focus on the good things that are happening because of this situation. The family time, rides in the car to just see nature or people fishing,

16. Encourage friendships with other Christian kids. This is often overlooked and so important, in my opinion. It is fine (and important even) for kids to have friends who are not believers. That's how the Good News is shared, after all, but if it is true that you are a combination of the 5 people with whom you spend the most time, you want the people surrounding your kids to be Christians with a solid faith.

17. Make them a priority. Let your kids know that they are important to you by the way that you choose to spend your time. I said above that you should not feel compelled to be present with them 100% of the time, and I really believe that, but they have to know that they are important to you. Kids who feel important are kids who know what it's like to be loved, and all love comes from God. If they don't feel important and valued to their parents, how can they know what it feels like to be loved and valued by God? You are the first and best model of love for your kids, so make sure they can see it in the way you choose to spend your time.

We are not perfect parents, you and I, but God made us perfectly suited for our children, challenging as they may be. Raising Christian kids is not easy now and likely never will be easy, but if we can achieve most of the items on this list, we will be way ahead and our kids will be encouraged in their own Christian faith.

Praying you have a



TO OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS
By: Dania Hann-Lachapelle

There's a time and a place that's special each week, Where we're eager to learn of the Word that we seek.

The lessons are studied and scripture is read But let us go back a few days, instead.

Your week is so busy and filled with "to do's" Like everyone else not a minute to lose.

Your family, your business, work never ending Your precious few moments you're ever still lending.

But you make the time to prepare for Sunday When you know someone will listen to the words that you say.

So with God's special guidance, with prayer and with time You prepare for each Sunday, the Word we can find.

Thank you for giving us an hour each week Knowing it is the Word of the Lord that we seek.

And today we are blessed and grow more each day Because you dedicate your love to the Lord in this way.

We wouldn't have Sunday School if it weren't for you. So today we say thank you for all that you do.

A very special thank you to all of you who have given your time and teaching talents over the past year!

faith and friends

Deut. 6:4-9

Our Faith, Family & Friends events are currently on hold until further notice. We are hoping to see everyone soon but we need to wait until approval for gatherings above at least 50 are permitted.

Therefore, summer 2020 dates/events are subject to change at this point.

Please check our Facebook page or church website for more information regarding new dates and events as they become available.

WACKY



WEDNESDAYS

are scheduled to return this fall!
Wednesdays from 4-5 PM
Schuylkill Haven Recreation Center

SAVE THE DATE!

We've postponed the tea party!



May 1, 2021
1:00 - 4:00 PM
Fellowship Hall



During May, we will continue meeting over Webex on Wednesdays @ 7pm.

Below are "special" themed nights.

May 6th - Seis de Mayo
Just like Cinco de Mayo but a day late ☺
Make your favorite Mexican dish to share!

May 20th - Stromboli Night
Get out Nona's prized Stromboli recipe and join us for some serious fun!



While we can't meet in person, please know that the Children's Ministry Team misses you all and we are praying for you!

Parents, please visit our Facebook page for our Sunday School videos, Parent Connection Resources, Table Talks, Would You Rather Wednesdays?, and Family Fun Fridays as we try to stay connected to your family during this time!

If you have any specific prayer requests, please feel free to PM me on Facebook or send an email to abergen@havenfirstumc.org. I pray that you all are doing well, staying healthy and sane, and I can't wait to see you all soon!

is this thing on?

New Rules for Streaming Services

With the beginning of streaming our services online comes new guidelines for streaming the music presented during our services.

The Worship and Communications Committees will continue to navigate through these new guidelines.

If you are interested in presenting a musical offering to the congregation, please contact Julie and Cindy to further prepare for this offering during our streaming services.

Song Validation

1. Let Julie or Cindy know your song choice
2. We will *Validate* your song choice through our licensing company - CCLI.
3. You are ready to sing, play, or dance!

Thank You

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH: FIRST UMC MISSIONS COMMITTEE



The missions committee met via WebEx on April 16th, to discuss a request from Irene Tomchik. Irene asked the missions committee to reproduce a CD originally published in 2016 that shares the message of Jesus Christ in the spirit of John Wesley. Upon discussion it is the vision of the Missions committee that this CD will be a continuation of the Discipleship process that we are pursuing as a church. We have been growing and training as disciples over the past few years. We feel now is the season to begin moving beyond our church family into the community using this CD as a tool to help share the life Christ with our neighbors and friends.

The Cd's have been produced and the committee will be meeting soon to determine the best way to distribute them to all of you. If you know of someone at the moment that will greatly benefit from receiving the CD please contact Ellen Marino by email: ehmbear@aol.com. or the Church office (570) 385-3941, office@havenfirst.org.

Blessings,
Ellen Marino
Missions Committee Chair

MAY—JUNE WEEKLY PRAYER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Weekly Prayer is continuing for our Church, Community and beyond. People are praying from home and we encourage all of you to join in prayer.

April 26– May 2—Wanda Langley & Barry Baum

May 3-9—Liz Wallace

May 10-16—Pastor Chris & Lisi Fisher

May 17-23—JoAnn Daum

May 24-30-

May 31—June 6—Wanda Langley

June 7-13—Brian Reading

June 14-20

June 21-27

June 29– July 4

If you would like to sign up for a week of prayer, please contact the church office at (570)-385-3941 or e mail us a office@havenfirstumc.org.

Faith Community Nurse's Notes

By: Ann Moyer RN, FCN

Pneumonia

Pneumonia is a lower respiratory infection. It causes the air sacs known as alveoli to become inflamed. These air sacs can fill with pus or fluid which makes getting enough oxygen into the blood stream difficult. Children under the age of 2 years and adults age 65 and over are at higher risk for contracting pneumonia due to their immune systems.

Pneumonia is caused when microscopic organisms such as viruses (Corona Virus) or bacteria are breathed in from contaminated droplets. It can also happen when a beverage or small particle of food goes "down the wrong pipe" into the lung and breeds bacteria. Pneumonia may also begin with a viral infection (Flu) which suppresses the immune system and then leads to a secondary bacterial infection.

As people age the work of breathing may become harder due to stiffening of the chest wall and loss of elasticity of the lung. There may also be a weakening of the respiratory muscles causing an inability to cough sufficiently to clear the air passageways or to deep breath. This coupled with smoking, alcoholism or chronic conditions such as heart disease, COPD, and diabetes increases the risk for the elderly.

Symptoms may include: fever, chills, chest pain, shortness of breath, fatigue, and cough. There may be a gradual functional decline and mental confusion. If symptoms do occur prompt medical attention is necessary.

Prevention is the key in staying healthy. Practice good hygiene, eat healthy, exercise and avoid contact with people who are sick.

Dunlap, M. M. (2020). Community-Acquired pneumonia (CAP) patient assessment. *Grown Up*, 25 (3), 1-2.



Continue Safe Practices!

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands or use hand sanitizer immediately afterward.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Stay at home when you are sick except to get medical care.

Stay tuned as we are hoping to launch a new cancer ministry here at FUMC. Lynne O'Connell and I attended a wonderful seminar through Our Journey of Hope at Cancer Treatment Centers of America, Philadelphia back in February. We have been blessed with a wealth of information and are excited to share it!

SPRC

SPRC is scheduled to meet again towards the end of May. Hopefully by then we will be able to meet in person! We are continuing to work on job descriptions for youth leaders and will posting them shortly. Once the applications come in we can start the interview process.

We are also pleased to announce that we have hired a summer intern. The position is for a college student to have the opportunity to explore what a ministry vocation looks like. Ministry activity ranges from music and your leadership to planning, administration and creative design work. The position last for 12 weeks. Thanks are assigned by the pastor and SPRC. Katie Klamfoth has graciously accepted this position again this year. Welcome back, Katie!!

If anyone has any concerns or praises, especially at this time in the life of our church, please contact any SPRC member or call or text me at 570-294-4513. I pray for you to stay healthy and safe.

Linda Olsen

SPRC Chair

Church communications notice

Dear Friends,

One of our members recently received anonymous correspondence with the church's return address on the envelope, but which was not actually sent or authorized by anyone in church leadership. To be as kind as possible, it is mail fraud to send correspondence in someone else's name or address, including the church's. The sender may have well-meaning intentions, but the use of a false address is misleading and a particular offense against the church because such mail has the potential to damage the reputation of the church. If you have information about the matter, please contact the pastor or the church office. Thank you for your understanding. We wish everyone the best, and want to be above board in all we say and do.

Sincerely,

Pastor Fisher

Reaching out

Things have been rather uncertain these last several weeks. Please remember those in our midst that are Shut –in or homebound with a card or just a quick note to let them know that they are not forgotten. Here is the list that is normally published in the weekly bulletin:

Schuylkill Haven:

Lucille Romberger
406 May Drive

Carol Shappell
206 Jefferson St.

Pottsville:

Rev. Carl Geary
Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village Rm. 257
189 E. Tressler Blvd., Lewisburg, PA. 17837

Marilyn Koch
Schuylkill Manor, room 119

Virginia McClelland
400 Washington Street

Helen & Stuart Sattizahn
York Terrace, Room 138

Catherine Daubenspeck
Schuylkill Center

Tremont:

John & Anna Mease
113 Washington Street

Orwigsburg:

Dr. Herb Rubright
33 Grist Mill Road

Carol Wagner
Seton Manor, Room 507

Barbara Woll
Seton Manor, Room 103

Auburn

Ruth Short
1127 Wynonah Drive

PRISON MINISTRY

Terry Short NY 7743
7743 SCI Camp Hill
P.O. Bos 33028
St Petersburg, FL 33733

Bridget Steffie PC8700
SCI-Muncy
P.O. Box 33028
St. Petersburg, FL.33733